



NGC News

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During Queen Elizabeth II's reign her portrait has been featured on coins worldwide.

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Effective February 20, eBay's stamps, currency and coins policy will be updated to disallow replica coin listings.

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NGC Certifies Unique Proof 1854 \$10

Posted on 2/14/2012

Coin is one of only a handful of higher denomination proof coins from the 1850s known.

NGC recently identified and certified a proof 1854 \$10 gold piece. The coin grades Proof 55 Cameo. While a small number of lower denomination proof coins are known from this year, notably examples of the first year of issue \$3 gold pieces, this newly identified example is the only known proof 1854 \$10.

The coin was submitted to NGC by an authorized dealer based in Europe and no information concerning the coin's provenance was provided. Although submitted as a regular issue example, it was immediately recognized by NGC as a great rarity. Lightly circulated, it nonetheless possesses deeply mirrored fields, frosted devices and squared rims, unlike any other known 1854 Gold Eagle. More telling, this coin was struck using the same reverse dies as known proof eagles dated from 1840 through 1848. During that era, reverse dies for proof coinage were saved and used to strike coins in subsequent years. No other proof eagles struck at Philadelphia are known from the period 1849 through 1856.

Walter Breen, in his *Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins, 1722-1989*, relates a story of proof gold coinage of 1854. Officials from the city of Bremen, Germany visited the Philadelphia mint, and offered gifts of their coinage, which were placed in the Mint's cabinet collection. In exchange, a complete set of



1854 proof coins were presented to Bremen for its museum. For the 1854 \$10, Breen listed a mintage of “1+,” meaning that at least one example was struck. This set of coins remained in Bremen until World War II, when the city was occupied and the coins went missing from the museum. Breen states that, periodically since, examples of proof coins dated 1854 from this set have been offered. It is unknown if this 1854 \$10 formed part of that set.



1854 \$10 Proof
[click image to enlarge](#)

Mark Salzberg, chairman of NGC, commented on this coin’s discovery: “Now that NGC has submission centers and authorized dealers around the world, there is a new opportunity for these type of exciting discoveries. Moreover, we’re very proud that people throughout the globe have access to exceptional expert services from NGC, so that they can receive accurate information about any coin.

Rick Montgomery, president of NGC and head of grading, notes that, “identifying and authenticating this coin is part of an important numismatic story, and we work hard to make sure that it is told properly. It’s an honor that NGC is entrusted time and again by dealers and collectors with the greatest numismatic rarities.”

Gold coin expert and co-author of the *Encyclopedia of U.S Gold Coins 1795 – 1933*, Jeff Garrett comments that, “The discovery of a Proof 1854 Eagle is one of the most significant numismatic stories of the last decade. Seldom is a previously unknown, unique coin, revealed to the numismatic community. The circumstances of the discovery adds to the allure.” Jeff Garrett worked with NGC on the encapsulation of the Smithsonian’s great rarities, which includes the most comprehensive date run of proof gold coinage of the 1840s.

Doug Winter, expert in 19th Century gold coinage, consulted with NGC on this coin. After completing his own detailed study, he related, “the 1854 \$10...is absolutely a proof. This is one of the most important United States gold coins to

have been discovered in some time and as far as I know it is unique in Proof for the date. Great coin!”

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United States

America the Beautiful 5 oz. Quarters Submission Special: \$20 per Coin

Posted on 2/14/2012

Submit ATB 5 oz. quarters for only \$20. Available for a limited time only.

For a limited time you can submit your America the Beautiful 5 ounce coins (Mint State or Specimen) for a flat fee of \$20 per coin – a savings of nearly 50%. This fee covers both grading and the NGC Oversize Holder. The 5-coin minimum requirement is waived for this special offer.

Please follow the guidelines outlined below to ensure your submission is processed in a timely manner.



- Valid for Collector Society members and dealers
- ATB 5 ounce coins must be submitted on a separate submission form and cannot be combined with other coins
- Select Modern tier
- Write ATB Special in the upper left corner of the submission form
- No other discounts apply
- Collectors Society coupons cannot be used for this special
- Special submissions are unlimited
- Standard turnaround times apply
- Handling and return shipping fees still apply

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Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

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United States

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NGC Releases New NGC Dealer Locator

Posted on 1/24/2012

Looking for an NGC Authorized Dealer near you? Check out our new NGC Dealer Locator.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) has released a new NGC Dealer Locator, an online listing of NGC Authorized Dealers. The improved Dealer Locator is available on www.NGCcoin.com and the NGC Mobile website, m.ngccoin.com.

Now you can search for NGC Authorized Dealers by location, specialties, and services offered. You'll find dealers who specialize in Morgan dollars, will assist you with submissions to NGC, help build Registry sets, and more! If a dealer has a storefront, click on "Get Directions" to see a map to their location. If a dealer is also a PMG Authorized Dealer, the PMG logo will appear next to their name.

The NGC Dealer Locator can be found under the "Locate Dealers" link at the top of every page on www.NGCcoin.com. You can also access it by visiting the NGC Mobile website, m.ngccoin.com, on any cell phone and clicking on "Locate NGC Dealers." Smartphone users with GPS-enabled phones can search for the nearest dealers by clicking "Use Current Location," or they can type in an address or zip code.

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NGC Grades Ted Williams Collection

Posted on 2/8/2012

Each of the 91 coins are encapsulated with the pedigree Ted Williams Collection.

[Sarasota, Florida] – Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) has announced that they have certified select coins from the Ted Williams Collection.

The 91 coins were a part of the personal items of Baseball Hall of Fame member Ted Williams. Each coin is encapsulated with the pedigree Ted Williams Collection.

Consisting of 78 US and 13 World coins the collection includes an 1873-S Open 3 \$20 graded NGC XF 45, 1926 Indian Head \$10 graded NGC MS 63, a 1978 South Africa 1 Krugerrand graded NGC MS 67 and a 1909 France Gold 20 Franc graded NGC MS 66.



“We are pleased to grade this collection of coins from one of the legends of baseball,” said NGC CEO Steve Eichenbaum.

Williams, regarded as the greatest batsman in Major League history, spent his 22 year career with the Boston Red Sox. His many records and accomplishments include 6 AL Batting Championships, .344 Career Batting Average and a .406 batting average in 1941. He was also awarded Most Valuable Player for 1946 and 1949 and Player of the Decade from 1951-1960.

“NGC has done an exemplary job in grading the coins from the Ted Williams Collection,” remarked David Hunt, President, Hunt Auctions. “We felt it important to memorialize the provenance of this particular grouping of coins as having originated from one of the great sports collections to have ever come to market.”

The coins are a part of a large quantity of Ted Williams’ personal items that will be offered to the public by Hunt Auctions at a live event on April 28, 2012 at Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the auction will be donated to The Jimmy Fund, a prestigious Boston charity which is forever affiliated with Ted Williams, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and the Boston Red Sox. For more information about the coin collection or the auction events in general please visit www.huntauctions.com



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NGC Grading Coins On-site at Whitman Baltimore Expo

Posted on 2/20/2012

NGC will offer on-site grading, including our Silver Dollar Tier, for Morgan and Peace Dollars. All coins submitted for on-site grading will be evaluated for Plus Designation at time of grading.

NGC will offer on-site grading and encapsulation of US coins* at [Whitman Baltimore Expo](#), in Baltimore, MD on **Thursday, March 22 to Friday, March 23, 2012**. Please check with NGC Customer Service for submission cut-off times.

Please read below for complete details on the services offered during the show.

NGC will be offering [NGC Details Grading](#) for coins that exhibit detrimental surface conditions. This service is provided automatically and at no additional charge for all on-site grading submissions. Submitters can request to opt out of this service if they prefer to have such coins returned ungraded.

All coins certified or reholdered by NGC at shows receive the [Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® Holder](#).

On-Site Services include :

Silver Dollar Tier	\$30 per coin
Morgan and Peace Dollars valued at \$500 and under (5-coin minimum).	
<i>Coins must be in flips.</i>	

Gold Special	\$50 per coin
Gold coins valued at \$3,000 and under (5-coin minimum).	

Value WalkThrough	\$65 per coin
Coins valued at \$1,500 and under.	

WalkThrough	\$100 per coin
Coins valued from \$1,501 to \$100,000.	
Expedite WalkThrough	\$150 per coin
Guaranteed four-hour turnaround, coins valued at \$100,000 and under. <i>Coins are returned within four hours or regular show pricing applies.</i>	
High-Value WalkThrough	\$200 per coin
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued from \$100,001 to \$500,000.	
Unlimited Value WalkThrough	\$500 per coin
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued above \$500,000.	
Show ReHolder	\$15 per coin
A coin in a scratched, chipped or older-generation NGC holder is placed in a new Scratch-Resistant EdgeView Holder.	
NCS CrossOver	\$10 per coin
A coin in an NCS holder is NGC Details Graded .	

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Most coins submitted for on-site grading are returned within 24 to 48 hours, except for expedited services, which are completed within four hours.

NGC Show Representatives will also be accepting submissions for all service levels to be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. These include World services, Ancient Coin Services, Early Bird, Economy, Bulk, Special Designations, PHOTO PROOF® and more!

Special Note: Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for on-site grading or regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series, 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

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United States

NGC Is Hiring

Posted on 1/17/2012

NGC is looking for full-time world coin specialists.

We are seeking professional specialists or graders with experience in vintage or modern world coins. Our graders work as a team, combining their expertise with proven processes to accurately evaluate, authenticate and grade submitted coins. Located in Sarasota, FL, we offer excellent benefits including medical and 401(k). Salary commensurate with experience.

If you feel you meet the qualifications, email your résumé to jobs@NGCcoin.com or fax your résumé to 941-360-2553.

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NGC Ancients: Philip II and the Macedonian Empire

Posted on 2/14/2012

This month, NGC Ancients examines the life and principal coinage of Philip II, founder of the Macedonian Empire.

Alexander III (336-323 B.C.), known to most of the world simply as “Alexander the Great,” is the monarch most readily associated with the vast and powerful ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon. Over two thousand years after his death, he remains one of the giant figures of the classical world; a cultural, military, and political icon who has only grown larger with the passage of time.

However, it was Alexander’s father and predecessor, King Philip II (359-336 B.C.), who must be credited with the initial formation and consolidation of the empire that Alexander was to make renowned throughout the world. Though less famous than his son, Philip II was arguably as important a figure in both the annals of Greek military history and numismatics.

Philip, who was probably born in 382 B.C., was the son of the Macedonian King Amyntas III (393, 392-370 B.C.), who enjoyed a long (but troubled) reign. This coin is a silver didrachm of Amyntas III, and features Heracles in lion headdress on the obverse, and a horse and the king’s name on the reverse.



Philip spent at least part of his formative years as a political captive in Thebes, where he received his military and political training. It is speculated that he returned to Macedon c.364 B.C., after the death of his father. Although he was not first in line for the royal succession, Philip was able to seize the Macedonian throne in 359 B.C., following the deaths of his brothers Alexander II and Perdiccas III.



The coin on the left is a rare bronze unit of Alexander II, the only type that can be definitively attributed to him. The coin on the right is also quite scarce; it is a silver diobol of Perdikkas III, who had succeeded Alexander II to the throne in 368 B.C.

Through a combination of skillful diplomacy and aggressive military action, Philip quickly expanded and secured the Macedonian Kingdom. By 356 B.C., he had already taken control of productive gold and silver mines that would fuel his political and military activity for the next two decades.

Interestingly enough, though Philip had large quantities of precious metal at his disposal as early as the mid-350s B.C., the first gold staters (a standard Greek gold denomination) attributed to him are tentatively thought to have been minted c.345 B.C., and current research indicates that most of his gold coins were produced posthumously, during the early reign of Alexander III. Scholars have offered differing, and ultimately speculative, theories on the gold coinage of Philip, especially the many issues struck under Alexander III, but the precise chronology and explanation for this series remains elusive.

This piece, an excellent example of an early Philip II stater, depicts the god Apollo on the obverse, and on the reverse features a charioteer, with Philip's name appearing in the exergue. This design is considered the standard Philip II gold "type," as the design combination remained essentially unchanged for as long as these coins were struck.



Aside from the different styles of Apollo portraits from various Macedonian mints (the mints themselves represent another unresolved aspect of Philip's coinage), the only significant variation within the series is represented by the symbol(s) on the reverse of most issues. These symbols, which include monograms, objects, and representations of deities, are thought to denote mint location and (very speculatively) the era of production. LeRider has attempted to group Philip's staters according to these symbols and various aspects of style, but there is still much work to be done in this area.

This example features one of the most common symbols, that of a trident. Currently, this example is attributed to the Amphipolis mint, c.323-315 B.C., which



would indicate that it was struck even later than the death of Philip's son and successor, Alexander III (d.323 B.C.).

For purposes of contrast,



this Philip II stater, attributed to the Abydos mint and also thought to be a posthumous issue (c.323-316 B.C.), displays a combination of a Greek letter and cornucopia beneath the horses. The depiction of Apollo differs stylistically from the example cited above, as do the symbols on the reverse; it illustrates at once the subtlety and range of differences found on the gold staters of Philip II.

In addition to the gold staters of Philip II, his silver tetradrachms are also one of the classic and avidly collected issues of the ancient world. Though the obverse of this series features a bearded head of the god Zeus throughout, there are two significant variations on the reverse.



The first, earlier type shows a figure on horseback saluting, which is thought to be a representation of Philip himself. This coin is considered to be a "lifetime" issue of Philip II, possibly struck at Amphipolis from 355-348 B.C. It features on the obverse a typical depiction of Zeus, and on the reverse the king on horseback, with the bow symbol in front of the horse's forelegs.

The other type features the "youth" on horseback; the horseman will face to the right and is depicted holding a long palm branch. This coin is an excellent example of this reverse type. Similarly to the staters, Philip's tetradrachms also display various symbols on the reverse, usually between the legs of the horse. Again, dating and mint attribution are largely speculative at this time; this coin is currently thought to be minted c.340-328 B.C. and is attributed to the mint of Amphipolis.



Though eventually eclipsed by his conquering son, Philip II remains an important figure in Greek history and numismatics. He essentially founded one of the most significant empires in recorded history. In addition, he was also responsible for issuing two of the most recognizable and intriguing series of ancient coins. These

coins are avidly collected today for their inherent beauty and historical significance. They also represent some of the most persistent mysteries in the field, as many aspects of the coinage are still open to debate and are often reconsidered by scholars as new discoveries are made.

Images courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group.

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United States

Counterfeit Detection: Altered Date Flying Eagle Cent

Posted on 2/17/2012

NGC graders find an altered-date 1856 Flying Eagle cent and explain what to avoid.



Genuine 1856 Flying Eagle Cent
click image to enlarge

The 1856 Flying Eagle cent is an important and highly collectible issue because of its status as the first Small Cent. Large Cents, which had been struck since 1793, were both cumbersome and costly to produce. The Mint experimented with a reduced-sized one cent piece that could solve both problems, and the result was a coin that was 8.5 millimeters smaller in diameter and more than 6 grams lighter. All 1856 Flying Eagle cents are

considered to be patterns and between 2,000 and 3,000 pieces are believed to have been struck. NGC designates all 1856 Flying Eagle cents to be Proofs, but it is common to see low grade examples because many ultimately entered circulation.

It is not surprising that counterfeiters have targeted the 1856 Flying Eagle cent. According to the NGC US Coin Price Guide, in Proof 4 an example would be worth \$6,000. Better grade specimens can easily sell for five figures. Although outright fakes such as casts or die struck copies of the 1856 Flying Eagle cent are uncommon, NGC routinely receives altered dates.

These alterations are fairly easy to spot. All of the 1856 cents have the AM in AMERICA closely spaced, while only half of the 1858 cents have this "Large Letters" design. If the AM are separated on an 1856, it was undoubtedly altered from an 1858 Small Letters cent. The style of the 5 in the date was different in

1856 and 1858 as well, another key diagnostic. In 1856, the 5 had a long top bar that tapered to a sharp point, while in 1858 the top bar was shorter and had a rounded tip.



Altered Date 1856 Flying Eagle Cent
Click images to enlarge.

The 1856 Flying Eagle cent pictured here was altered from an 1858 Large Letters cent. The AM in AMERICA are touching, as they should be on the 1856, but the 5 is clearly the wrong style. Most importantly, there are prominent tool marks around the 6, a telltale sign that the digit was altered. This is not a particularly deceptive fake, but it's an alteration that we see quite frequently.

Be sure to check out NGC's Counterfeit Detection column published monthly in the American Numismatic Association's The Numismatist.

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USA Coin Album: A Look Back at Washington Quarters, Part One

Posted on 2/14/2012

This month Dave takes a nostalgic look at the original reverse design of the Washington quarter.

In reviewing the list of all the national parks and monuments to be honored on quarter dollars over the next several years, it occurred to me that a return to the original reverse design of the Washington quarter is now extremely unlikely. By the time this current program ends in 2021, it will have been well over twenty years since the 1932-98 reverse was used. This seems like reason enough to take a look at this durable coin series that had been the only type known to most Americans for so many years.



I started collecting coins from circulation around 1965. It was not until the late fall of that year that the first clad quarters appeared, and silver pieces remained fairly common through 1967. It wasn't until the following year that they seemingly vanished within months. I believe it was the end of silver certificate redemption in June of 1968, followed by a small but immediate spike in the price of silver, which led to their total removal. By then even the Treasury, which had vowed that silver coins would circulate side-by-side with clad coins for decades, began to systematically withdraw them. I was blissfully unaware of these economic developments at the time; I knew only that it was getting much harder to fill my quarter folders.

Since neither of my parents collected coins and I had very little money, the searching of rolls from the bank, which was a staple for so many collectors, was

not an option. Instead, I relied solely on whatever surfaced in my or my parents' change, though I also pestered relatives to search their pocket change, too. In this manner I was able to complete perhaps 80% of the set from 1932 through 1964. After three or four years of collecting I had all of the Philadelphia coins except 1949, 1955 and 1958; these I later learned had been hoarded by speculators. I also secured the San Francisco coins from 1940 onward (living near the San Francisco Mint gave me an edge over many collectors in other parts of the country). It was the Denver Mint coins before 1950 that proved the most elusive to me, as they lacked the high mintages of the Philly issues and the geographical proximity of the 'S' Mint quarters. Most of these slots remained empty long after the neighboring ones were filled.

Around 1970-71 I was making some pocket money from mowing lawns and other odd jobs, so I set about completing the set through coin shop purchases. At that time coin shops were quite appealing to kids and hole-fillers in general. While these days most shops focus almost solely on bullion trading, with perhaps a few proof sets in their display cases, before 1980 the typical neighborhood coin shop was a wonderland that could provide just about any 20th Century USA coin in any circulated grade. Metal trolleys filled with plastic tubes of each and every date/mint combination were commonplace, and many shops also had shallow boxes filled with mixed dates and mints at a fixed price. Every other Saturday my collecting friends and I would spend a couple hours sifting through these treasure chests, doing our best to find the real plums. It was through this means that I filled nearly all of the remaining Washington Quarter slots in my folders at 45 cents apiece. Another box in my favorite shop was marked 75 cents apiece, and this furnished the scarcer coins, which included all the mintmarked issues from 1934-39, as well as the elusive 1949(P) and 1949-D. Finally, there was a box marked \$1.25, and this included the scarce 1937-S amid a selection of Barber and Standing Liberty quarters.

A topic on which I've dwelled a number of times, but one that still bears repeating, is just how quickly silver coins wore in circulation. I suspect that a majority of the people reading this column are not old enough to remember circulating silver or were simply not collecting during those years, but it was the norm for early Washington quarters to be worn nearly slick by the 1960s. Among the coins I secured from my mother's supermarket change only weeks apart were two 1932(P) quarters, which at that time had been circulating for about 35 years. Both were worn down to the bottoms of their peripheral legends, with only the tops of the date numerals still readable. Even quarters from the late 1950s, then about ten years old, could not be found grading higher than Fine. Contrast this with our circulating clad coinage, which is found in a similar grade after some 40 years of

usage.

For awhile I saved the clad issues as they appeared, but these never held much appeal for me. In fact, they still don't, though they are just as much a part of our numismatic heritage. I suppose anyone who was collecting when silver coins were commonplace has always thought of the clad issues as unwelcome intruders that spoiled the hobby. Later generations of collectors have found much of interest in these scorned coins, which are known to include numerous condition rarities. Next month I'll put nostalgia aside and take a more technical look at the Washington quarter series.

David W. Lange's column, "USA Coin Album," appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

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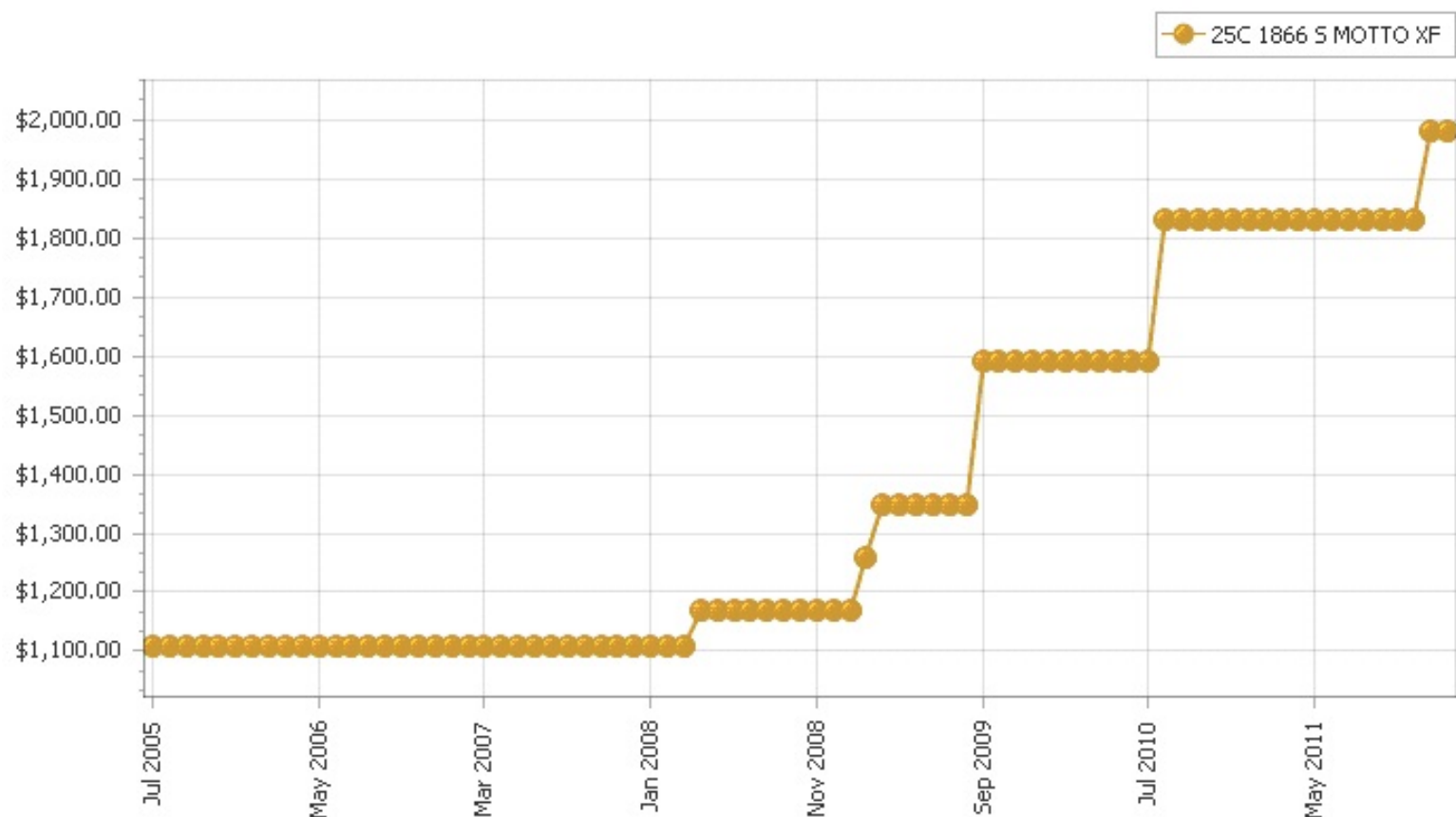
NumisMedia Market Report: Rare Date Seated Quarters in Robust Demand

Posted on 2/6/2012

Throughout the Seated Dimes, Quarters and Halves series there are many dates that may have had substantial original mintages, yet they are not often seen in the marketplace.

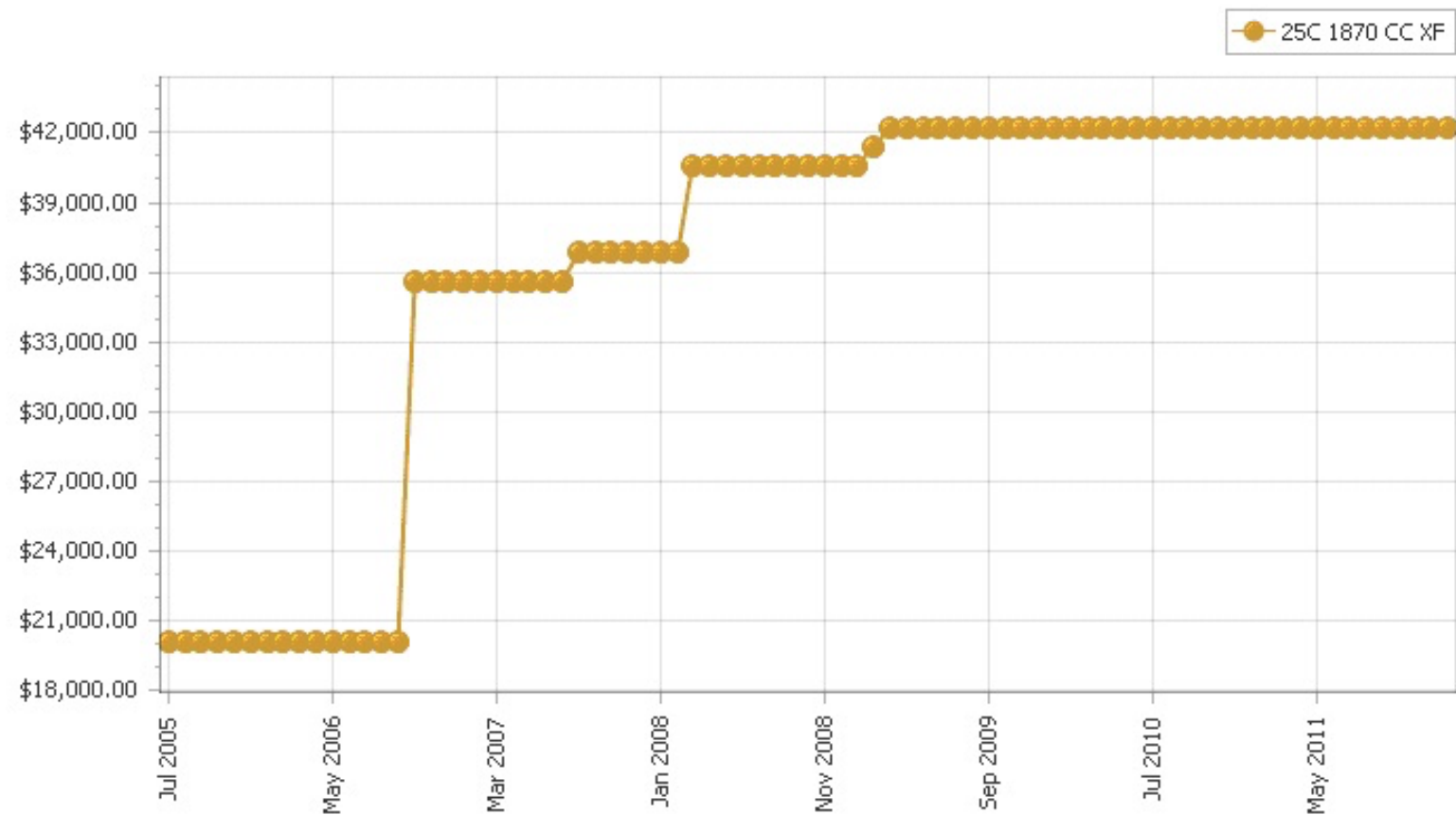
Many of these dates, along with the truly rare dates in the Seated series, do not appear on dealer want lists mainly because they do not want anyone to know they are looking for them. Knowing which dates are the toughest to locate is a bit of knowledge that many dealers do not want to share with competitors or the average collector.

For example, the 1866 S Seated Quarter had an original mintage of 28,000 coins. However, NGC and PCGS have graded only a total of 24 coins in XF and all higher grades. Even some of these can be resubmissions so this total is likely a little high. Granted, there are probably many circulated coins in collections that have not been certified; and most of these would not be certified because of minor problems that most collectors tend to overlook. The following graph shows the progress of the FMV for the 1866 S Seated Quarter in XF from July 2005 to January 2012.



As you can see, the FMV in July 2005 was \$1,110 and now it is listed at \$1,980. That is a gain of 78%. However, it is a difficult task to locate these coins and, when they do come on the market, competition usually drives the price to well beyond the current FMV. There are many other dates that have these same characteristics. The best place to begin is with lower mintage coins, and then check out the population reports from NGC. If you have a date that has a certified population of less than 50 coins in all grades from Very Fine through the highest Mint State, you are on the right track. Additional information, for example, auction results over the last 10 years or so, can be a tremendous asset in determining potential availability. The Heritage Auction Archive can be searched back as far as 1993 and it is very easy to use.

A prime example of a true rare date is the 1870 CC Seated Quarter. This had an original mintage of 8,340 coins. There are only 16 coins certified by the two grading services in XF to MS 64. The highest grade we list in the FMV is an MS 60 at \$85,630. The graph for this coin in XF shows an increase of nearly 110% from July 2005 to January 2012. In addition, when a problem-free coin does come on the market, there is no telling how much premium it could bring in a hotly contested auction format.



There are many other dates within the Seated Quarter series that have these same characteristics; it is up to the individual collector to pursue the challenge here or some other series.

This article is a guest article written by:



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From the NGC Archives: 1859 Seated Liberty Half Dollar

Posted on 2/14/2012

The Seated Liberty Half Dollar was 20 years old when this example was produced at the Philadelphia Mint.

Its design resulted from the Greek Revival movement, which swept America in the 1830s, as well as from then Mint Director Robert M. Pattersons fondness for the Britannia figure on English coins.



The Mint's officers anticipated a complete redesign of the half dollar in 1859, as the many pattern halves of this date confirm. Instead, they had to settle for a slight revision to the existing reverse. This Type 2 example features the slender arrowheads, which resulted from this upgrade. An amazing gem, it is quite rare as such. In its 1998 ANA catalog, wherein this beauty appeared as Lot 6661, Heritage Auctions acknowledged its rarity. Their description bears repeating: This piece exhibits scintillating luster and is only a hint of rose and golden patina at the borders from full brilliance.

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World Coins: Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee of Numismatics

Posted on 2/14/2012

During Queen Elizabeth II's reign her portrait has been featured on coins worldwide.

The year 2012 will commemorate many occasions including the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The Diamond Jubilee will mark the 60th year of her reign, the second longest in British history. During those 60 years, Queen Elizabeth II has been a major part of numismatics as her portrait is featured on coins world wide.



Gibraltar 2002 Gold Commemorative 1/2 Crown for Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee

Elizabeth Alexander Mary was born on April 21, 1926, the daughter of the King George VI. Elizabeth's father became monarch after his brother Edward VIII abdicated the throne in 1936. Since King George VI did not have a son, Elizabeth was the heir presumptive.

In 1939 Great Britain was at war. The Royal Family stayed in England. Elizabeth went to work for the war effort making radio broadcasts, public appearances and even joining the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service where she worked as a driver and mechanic.

After the war, Elizabeth married Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark on November 20, 1947. On November 14, 1948, Elizabeth gave birth to their first child, Prince Charles.

In 1952, while Elizabeth and Phillip were on tour in Kenya, George VI died. Elizabeth became Queen on February 6, 1952. Elizabeth chose to keep her given name as her regnal name and became Elizabeth II. The coronation took place on June 2, 1953 in Westminster Abbey and was televised for the first time. More than 20 million British watched the event and just under 100 million in North America.

After her coronation, Elizabeth II and Prince Philip took a six-month world tour where she carried out many commonwealth and foreign state visits. She became the first reigning monarch to visit Australia and New Zealand. This placed her on a path to become the most widely traveled head of state in history.

Queen Elizabeth II's reign commenced at a time when decolonization was occurring and there was a move to a Commonwealth realm with Queen Elizabeth II as the Head of the Commonwealth. Despite this effort, decolonization continued with over 20 countries gaining independence and territories relinquished to existing ones. This time witnessed a shrinking of Great Britain's world power and influence. The Queen's status in government declined to that of a figurehead as Republics were formed in Commonwealth States and the Prime Minister and Parliament took on a more prominent role in British politics and policy.



Great Britain 1981 Commemorative Crown celebrating the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana

The growth in media coverage of the Royal Family has been a great influence on the daily life of the Monarchy. In 1977, Queen Elizabeth II celebrated the Silver Jubilee of her accession. The event's coverage reaffirmed the popularity of the Queen, despite the divorce of Princess Margaret that resulted in a lot of negative publicity at that time. The media attention grew significantly after the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981, the birth of the Queen's grandsons (William in 1982 and Harry in 1984), the divorce of Lady Diana and Prince Charles, the death of Lady Diana in 1997 and the Queen's Golden Jubilee in

2002. In 2011, Prince William's marriage was shown worldwide and every detail was painstakingly discussed by the media and tabloids. The 2012 Diamond Jubilee will certainly be a media story and is already starting to gather momentum.



L: Portrait for Great Britain and Commonwealth Coins; R: Portrait for colonial possessions

Throughout Queen Elizabeth II's reign her portrait has been featured on countless coins. Her portrait was first featured on coins in 1953 issued in Great Britain, Australia, Canada, Fiji, Jamaica, Malaya & British Borneo, Mauritius, New Zealand, South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. Different countries have used different portraits. Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Canada used an uncrowned effigy, because they were Dominions. Colonies such as Fiji, Jamaica, Malay and British Borneo, Mauritius and Hong Kong used a crown effigy. Some countries, like Southern Rhodesia, were offered a choice of effigy for their coinage. Varieties exist on the 1953 Canadian coinage; Queen Elizabeth either has a shoulder fold or no shoulder fold.

In 1965, a new effigy of Queen Elizabeth II with more mature features and wearing a tiara was used for Great Britain and several Dominions. In 1985, Great Britain, Australia and other countries started using a crowned effigy of Elizabeth II. In 1998, a fourth effigy was used for coinage, this time exhibiting more mature and rounder features. Several other changes have occurred to Queen Elizabeth II's portrait on circulating and commemorative coins. Many countries that are or were once in the British Commonwealth have stopped using her effigy. However, many other places that issue non-circulating legal tender coinage employ the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on the coins. Several larger countries including Australia have debated the abolishment of the Queen's effigy on currency. If legislation is passed, Elizabeth II may be the last British Monarch to have a portrait on coins for several countries.





L: Queen Elizabeth II's effigy used in 1985-1997; R: Effigy used 1998 to present

The 2012 Diamond Jubilee will see a large issuance of commemorative coinage featuring Queen Elizabeth II. Several countries have already issued commemorative coins hoping to capitalize on the event.

The numismatic influence of Queen Elizabeth II is tremendous. She is the last monarch on many coins throughout the world. Her Diamond Jubilee will not only celebrate the 60th year of her reign but also her influence on numismatics for that time and potentially for years to come.

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eBay Marketplace to Disallow Replica Coin Listings

Posted on 1/19/2012

Effective February 20, eBay's stamps, currency and coins policy will be updated to disallow replica coin listings.

The eBay marketplace for coin collecting is vibrant. Buyers and sellers alike enjoy access to both a great selection and a highly engaged community. Customers within the Coins & Paper Money category have told us that the ability to shop and sell confidently on eBay is an important factor for them.

Based on this feedback, and after closely reviewing the coin experience on eBay, we have decided to update [eBay's Stamps, currency, and coins policy](#) to disallow replica coin listings on eBay.com, effective February 20. Any replica coin listings on [eBay](#) on February 20 will be allowed to end normally.

This update reflects standards across the coin industry and helps ensure compliance with applicable laws that require replica coins to be permanently marked with the word "copy." We also expect that this update will increase marketplace confidence by letting our community know that coin listings on eBay are authentic, so they'll receive the most positive eBay experience possible.

The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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Teletrade Internet Auctions Announces Launch of Newly Designed Website

Posted on 2/14/2012

Teletrade Reaffirms its Dedication to Providing Customers With the Best in Service and Technology.

[Irvine, Calif.] – Teletrade, America's premier Internet auctioneer of certified coins and currency, is proud to announce the new Teletrade.com, launched February 2, 2012. The new website features a fresh look, easy navigation, and increased focus on our collectors' and consignors' needs. In addition to the redesign Teletrade has also made several changes to the bidding structure, most notably, No Hidden Reserves – all bidding will now open at the opening bid or one bid increment below the reserve to increase bidding transparency.

“Our customers have asked for these changes and we have listened. For 26 years Teletrade has been a leader in the coin collecting hobby with unmatched product selection and customer service, and we now have a website to match. Teletrade will continue to add features and provide the tools our users are asking for and we are excited to reveal the next feature enhancements shortly. Stay tuned!” said Corey Maita, VP of Business Development.

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